4.7 Issue Form

Issue Form - BSCP40/04	Issue Number *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

Issue Title *(Mandatory by originator)*

Assessing the continued use of TIBCO service as a source of data for market participants

Issue Description *(Mandatory by originator)*

This Issue Group seeks to establish the future of the TIBCO messaging service with the migration of BMRS as part of Elexon's transformation programme. Therefore, this Issue impacts all current users of TIBCO.

The Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service (BMRS) was implemented after New Electricity Trading Arrangements (NETA) go live in 2001 to provide the GB electricity industry with operational data relating to the Balancing and Settlement Arrangements. Since inception, the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) has made provision for publication of BMRS data to participants via multiple methods including a High Grade leased line as well as the public internet. When using the High Grade line, BMRS users can subscribe to a licensed software product, TIBCO Rendezvous, which provides a mechanism to publish BMRS data.

Due to the high licensing costs and network requirements of the TIBCO software, it was seen as a barrier to entry for some participants and in 2013 Elexon engaged users to seek their views. While existing High Grade users concluded that TIBCO should remain, Elexon developed an alternative offering, the Data Push Service (DPS) to provide an alternative to TIBCO.

The DPS provides the same content as the TIBCO service but in the form of XML messages delivered over the public internet using open source technology. Users can integrate DPS into their systems using a variety of well-supported protocols and programming languages.

In 2020, the user base of the DPS surpassed that of the TIBCO service threefold and has continued to grow. There are now approximately 120 active DPS subscribers and a number of long-established industry participants are now benefiting from this open and cost effective solution for real-time data publication.

We suggest that the following questions form a 'terms of reference' for the Issue Group to aid the flow of discussion.

1. How is TIBCO currently used by market participants and to what extent?
2. What would the implications of discontinuing TIBCO be? Does data provided by alternative TIBCO sources meet your requirements?
3. What would the implications of continuing to use TIBCO be? Are there any associated opportunity costs to its continued support?
4. Are there merit in supporting a High Grade service in the future?
5. If deemed appropriate, what would be the best approach to phase out TIBCO service?

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Justification for Examining Issue *(Mandatory by originator)*

Elexon is building a new Solution for BMRS and need to understand views from BSC Parties to improve value with regards to data publications. Elexon believe it is now important to re-examine the requirements of BSC Parties and BMRS users in relation to the longevity and current implementation of the BSC obligations with respect to TIBCO.

The following issues with continued TIBCO usage have been identified and noted by the BMRS Change Board, for consideration by an industry Workgroup:

- The current implementation (e.g. file formats, publication and outage recovery) do not align with current data standards e.g data structure.
- The ongoing operational support costs including maintenance is paid by BSC Parties collectively through Elexon's operational costs yet the service is used by only a few participants;
- The BMRS already provides REST APIs and the DPS, which since 2013 have resulted in a significant reduction (or cancellation) in the number of TIBCO licenses
- Whether the BSC should be technology agnostic and avoid requirements for the use of specific vendors or software providers within its obligations.
- The operating system underpinning TIBCO is no longer compatible with the latest version of TIBCO and needs a major technology upgrade

The BMRS Change Board endorsed the progression of this Issue at their meeting on 23 March 2021.

Potential Solution(s) *(Optional by originator)*

Workgroup discussion on the Terms of Reference and consideration of the identified issues will be a valuable source of industry feedback, to determine the future use of TIBCO.

One solution the Workgroup may consider is to decommission the TIBCO messaging service, on a phased approach over a timescale agreeable by High Grade users, whilst separately assessing whether the TIBCO Relay Service should be discontinued. Another outcome could be, if deemed to be of value to continue TIBCO, to incorporate this service within future BMRS architecture.

The outcome of this Issue Group would to identify the area of the BSC that needs to be changed so that Elexon to provide greater flexibility on future technologies to be ported to future data platform.

Proposer's Details

Name

Zaahir Ghanty

Organisation

Elexon

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Email Address Zaahir.Ghanty@elexon.co.uk,
Telephone Number 0207 380 4362
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